

All

About

ARUBA



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# ALL ABOUT

## ARUBA

### Netherlands Antilles

#### The island and the climate:

Aruba, first of the ABC islands, is the most western of the Leeward group of the Netherlands Antilles. It lies 15 miles from the Venezuelan coast, 12 degrees, 24 minutes north of the equator. It is 19.6 miles long, six miles in width at its widest point, and contains 70.9 square miles of rocky red hills and magnificent white sand beaches, surrounded by the deep blue Caribbean.

Oranjestad is the capital, with a population of about 12,000 people.

Puzzling are the rocks of Aruba. Giant boulders, enormous dioritic monoliths, lie tossed about the island in random piles, as though the Creator used the island to lay down his left-over rocks. All about the huge smoothed rocks are hills composed of ancient limestone reefs raised up from the sea.

The most recent geological survey of the island, by Dr. J.H. Westermann, explains that the great grey stones are remnants of an ancient volcanic batholith which is the core of the island. Since their formation, the land has been repeatedly submerged. In early Pleistocene times Aruba was completely covered by a cap of reef limestone.

Phosphates have been mined here, but many years ago the known deposits were exhausted commercially. Now, with modern techniques and equipment, there is renewed interest in phosphate.

Gold and silver occur as primary minerals in the quartz dikes of the old volcanic batholith. Alluvial gold was found in the valleys in the last century. Gold and silver were mined spasmodically from 1824 to 1913, when World War 1 brought the most recent operation to a halt. War forced a cessation of operation because needed operating supplies could not be brought in. Existing mining records put the total output at 1,344 kilograms. Island legend says that an Aruban found a 32-pound gold nugget in the mine at Bushiribana. The legendary finder promptly filled up all the pits with rubble to conceal the vein of treasure. He could not, thereafter, remember in which pit he had made his find. It is not exaggerated to say, that more than 3,000 pounds of gold were found in the gullies of Aruba.

The strong prevailing northeast trade wind makes the windward and leeward coasts of Aruba dramatically different. The northeast coast is a bold stretch of cliffs and rocks, bare and wild, where big waves roll in and thunder high. The windward coast is cut by handsome sandy coves, such as Andicouri and Dos Playa. At Andicouri, the Caribbean's highest and most dramatic natural bridge has been cut in a high arch of rock by the big waves that shoulder in against the red cliffs. Picnic-loving Arubans cherish the coves and dunes of the windward coast for outings and fishing, but swimming there is only for the expert.

In superb contrast is the serene, green leeward sea along the south-west coast. There the water is always calm and perfectly clear, where underwater visibility up to 150 feet is not unusual. The long scimiters of white sand called Eagle Beach and Palm Beach are the finest in the Caribbean. Coral reefs forming off the southern coast shelter swimmers and make a splendid hunting grounds for spearfishermen. Deep sea game fishing also is excellent in the Caribbean around Aruba.

The shelter of the leeward coast and the parallel reef give good shelter for ships in two excellent harbors. About 10 nautical miles apart are San Nicolas at the eastern end of the island and Oranjestad on the southwestern shore. Recently a new industrial harbor was completed at Barcadera, situated on the south shore of the island.

In the port of Oranjestad, the commercial harbor, all docks and warehouses are the property of the government. Recent dredging has given the port 36 feet depth at mean low water. Bunkering and other facilities also have been improved and expanded recently because of the great increase in the number of cruise ships calling at Oranjestad.

Docks and warehouses at San Nicolas are the property of Lago Oil & Transport Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey. The harbor there is the deepest in the Caribbean, with 42 feet of water.

The climate of Aruba is considered one of the finest in the Caribbean, because though the rainfall is scant, the days are always pleasantly cooled by the river of air, the north east trade wind, that is constantly present. The trade wind also sweeps bugs and insects out to sea so that window screens are practically not necessary on Aruba. Largely because of this, and because of the island's immaculateness, tropical diseases are practically unknown on the island.

The average yearly temperature is 82 degrees, with the coolest months January and February and the warmest August and September. The air is lively and sparkling because the humidity averages only 76 per cent.

Average annual rainfall is less than 20 inches. Most of that usually falls in brief showers in October, November and December. No hurricanes ever blew upon Aruba. It is completely outside of the track of the great Caribbean storms.

The delightful absence of squalls and downpours to spoil vacations is puzzling to the visitor, for puffs of cumulus clouds stream overhead, and lightning and thunder play about the coast of nearby Venezuela.

Students of the island's history explain that the land was made dry when the paint trees of Aruba were cut down many years ago to be shipped to European dye works. After the trees had been cut, an ascending column of warm air began to rise. It is that warm rising air that keeps the clouds from falling in rain, they say.

Thriving today are the weird, hump-backed divi-divi trees, that point forever downwind, the strange aloe plant which is being developed for its medicinal value, and the cactus, which Arubans use as living fences to keep out their goats and formerly often to dry their clothes on wash-day. But flowering frangipani, hibiscus, flame vines, royal poinciana and casuarina thrive on fertile, unleached soil around the doorways of the pastel homes, where they are watered and cherished.

The people and their languages:

The population of Aruba on January 1, 1964 was 59,310. Of those about 46,000 were of Dutch nationality, about 4,500 were British, 1,800 American, 1,000 Venezuelans. The balance is divided among the other 41 nationalities living peaceably together on the island.

Aruba is the only Caribbean island on which the Indian population was not exterminated. The Aruban today is a descendant of Indians, with a mixture of Spanish and Dutch blood of the early colonizers. Arubans, those born on the island, number about 36,000. All are citizens of the Netherlands.

In the last 20 years the population has doubled. In 1956 the birth-rate was 32.3 per 1,000 and the death-rate 4.8 per 1,000.

Arubans distinguish themselves by a great aptitude in learning foreign languages and a special knack for technical work. They have a great reputation throughout the Antilles for their thrift and honesty. Most people don't lock doors on Aruba.

The Leeward islands have a living language of their own - Papiamentu. It is a "lingua franca" that has evolved from Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch, with some Indian words. To it the U.S.A. has contributed "okay", "payday" and "watch-out".

Aruban children speak Dutch at school. When the school doors close they easily slide into Papiamentu for the rest of the day. In the fifth grade they begin to study English, in the sixth Spanish and in the seventh French.

While education is not compulsory, school enrollment stands at 74,000 - better than 25 per cent of the island's total population.

The majority of the population of Aruba is Roman Catholic. There are numerous Protestant churches on the island, of several sects, and few Hindus, Mohammedans, Israelites and followers of Confucius.

Government:

One ingredient that adds to the sparkle of Arubans today is the fact that they have been launched in self-government.

Until World War 2, the political relationship with the Netherlands was that of a colony. But during that war the Netherlands Antilles, and Surinam were the only free parts of the Kingdom and they had to act much on their own.

Queen Wilhelmina in her famous broadcast on December 7, 1942 pledged "that after the war it will be possible to reconstruct the Kingdom on the solid foundation of complete partnership".

In 1946, after the liberation of the Netherlands, the Staten of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam sent a joint mission to the Netherlands Government asking for a new constitutional order.

Several changes followed immediately, which resulted in a new "Kingdom of the Netherlands" under the House of Orange Nassau.

On December 15th, 1954, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands at a ceremonial assembly promulgated the new Charter, and the Kingdom has henceforth consisted of three co-equal partners: The Netherlands (Holland), Surinam (Netherlands Guiana) and the Netherlands Antilles.

The new Kingdom is characterized by the principle that each of the countries administers its internal affairs autonomously and that the three are committed, on a basis of equality, to the administration of their common interests and to mutual assistance. Common interests of equal concern to all three partners are described in the charter as "Kingdom Affairs".

December 15, has thus been proclaimed as Kingdom Day, and is an official holiday in the entire Kingdom.

Over all the Kingdom is the Sovereign, Queen Juliana. Responsibility for Kingdom Affairs rests with the Council of Ministers, the Council of State and the States-General, a bicameral legislative body.

Each of the three partners in the Netherlands Kingdom may write its own constitution, consistent with the Kingdom constitution. In April 1955, the Antillean constitution went into effect.

Under this constitution the Netherlands Antilles are divided into four island-territories: Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire and the Windward Islands (St. Martin, Saba and St. Eustatius), some 500 miles northeast in the Lesser Antilles.

The Queen as head of the government of the Netherlands Antilles is represented by a Governor appointed by her for 6 years. The Central executive power rests with the Governor and the Council of Ministers, both forming together the Government of the Country.

Ministers are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Legislative Council and are responsible for their policy to the Council.

The central legislative power is vested in the Government and the Legislative Council. The Council -- called the "Staten" -- consists of one chamber of 22 deputies elected by universal suffrage.

Curacao has twelve deputies, Aruba has eight, Bonaire has one, and the Windward Islands have one. Each party secures a number of seats that is in equal proportion to the percentage of votes brought out in their favor throughout the island-territories of Aruba and Curacao. In Bonaire and the Windward Islands the only seat goes to the party for which the majority of votes are cast.

Members of the "Staten" must be citizens. They may be men or women.

To vote, one must be of Dutch nationality, (but not necessarily a nativeborn Hollander), a resident of the Netherlands Antilles, and 23 years of age.

Members of the Staten are elected for four years. The Governor and the Staten may propose new bills, and the Staten has the right of amending bills proposed by the Governor.

Aruba, as do all of the four island-territories, has its own representative body, the Island Council. Members must be citizens and 23 years old. The Council has 21 members elected for four years. The Council has the power to make by-laws or ordinances concerning local affairs.

The Island Council elects Commissioners. With the Lieutenant Governor, the "Gezaghebber", they form the Executive Council. The Executive Council carries out the day-to-day administration and enforcement of law. The Lieutenant Governor, also appointed by the Queen for six years, presides over the island Council and acts as local chief of police.

#### History:

Perched in cool caves high above the pounding sea, lived the first Arubans, at the dawn of history. They left their mark in the caves-- red hieroglyphs made from the dye of the paint wood tree.

They were the peace-loving Arawaks. The many shards of clay pottery collected on Aruba show plainly their craftsmanship and artistic feeling in the treatment of the clay and the color and relief of their decorative motifs.

Stone pickaxes show they practiced agriculture. Recent finds of conch shell gouges show they made log canoes by digging out layers of carefully burned wood from big logs.

On a faint day in the far past, Aruba was discovered by Spaniards. It is a rumor on maps in 1494, but no record or seafarer's log mentions the exact date the first man landed on the shapely island. Alonso de Ojeda claimed it for Spain in 1499.

In 1515 Diego Salazar, on the order of Diego Columbus, viceroy of Hispaniola and son of the discoverer of the New World, took away all the Indian inhabitants of the three ABC islands-- about 2,000 souls -- to work on Hispaniola, now Haiti and the Dominican Republic. There the native population had been exterminated by the Spanish, and they were put to work in the mines.

But a dozen years later one Juan de Ampues succeeded in sending back to Aruba a group of Indians from Hispaniola, in part to help protect the Spanish Main, which lay here along the Venezuelan coast, and was the path by which bullion was transported from Peru to Spain via the Isthmus of Panama.

All enterprising fellows of those days immediately began preying on the Spanish galleons, which necessitated a Spanish garrison at Curacao. Aruba had the better farm land, and the Indians returned there, were set to keeping livestock under the supervisor of a small Spanish garrison.

Growing all over Aruba was the paint wood tree, strong in red pigment. Juan Fernandez de Castro discovered a great market in Europe for this kind of wood. From Charles V of Spain he managed to wrangle, on November 29, 1527, a monopoly to export this wood.

After the re-importation of Indians, to keep livestock and cut paint wood trees, Charles V issued a decree which forbade any white people to settle permanently in Aruba. A very few paint wood trees still grow on Aruba, in remote river gullies.

In 1634, the Dutch came in, near the culmination of the 80-year war between Spain and Holland. England came up with all her heroes, and the Spanish power went out, just like an extinguished candle.

Juan de Ampues had named the Leeward Islands "Islas Inutiles", and Spain had lost interest in these "useless islands" after the decline in significance of the Spanish Main. When the Dutch came, they found on Aruba about 200 people. The rest of the Indians had fled to Maracaibo.

One-legged Peter Stuyvesant was director of the ABC islands for the West-Indies Company in 1642, until his headquarters were moved to New York in 1646.

The Indians came back again, coaxed by the Dutch treatment of them as free people, and by the opportunities for horseracing.

The Dutch maintained for years the Spanish tradition of keeping out white colonists, and the "Commandeur" who ruled the island was the only white man allowed on Aruba.

The first white colonist allowed to settle on the island was Moses Levy Maduro, grandson of an Amsterdam immigrant to Curacao. He obtained in 1764 a permit for agriculture, could raise cattle and peanuts, and had to take an oath not to do any business. His descendants still live on Aruba. Toward the end of the 18th century the Netherlands West Indies Co. granted permits to live on Aruba to a few more white settlers. In Aruba's history there is no slave-trading.

There was an English interregnum, from 1805 to 1816, during the Napoleonic wars. Fugitives from Venezuela came in.

Americans came into the harbor with a frigate, two ketches and one corvette on April 10, 1806. Down went the anchors, and ashore came Francisco de Miranda, a



Venezuelan follower of liberator Simon Bolivar. Briefly he held control, but two years later the English came back.

They were not much interested in the island. During their period of power there was quite some famine on Aruba, because they forbade all trade there. Once they sent six barrels of flour to alleviate the famine in 1806. In that year a count showed 256 heads of families living on Aruba -- 60 White, 141 Indian, and the rest of mixed blood.

The English left in 1816, and the Dutch came back.

For some years the main export of Aruba was horses, worth about 300 Guilders each, and exported to Jamaica and Cuba.

In the fateful year of 1840, one Van Raders, a Governor of Curacao, imported 12 plants of aloe from Martinique. By 1845 about 20 acres of Aruba's land had been planted in aloe, which has cathartic properties.

The greatest export of the thriving crop was in the 1920's, when its value was about two million Guilders (roughly a million dollars) annually. Aruba raised 70 per cent of the world's production, and most of it went to England.

The cultivation of aloe declined steadily for many years, but recently there has been renewed interest in this unusual plant. Research indicates it has remarkable cosmetic properties, particularly for burns.

#### Industries:

Alluvial gold was found on remote northern slopes of the island in 1826, at Rooi Fluit. Engineer Paulus Printz, who gave his name to a gorgeous cove on the north shore, was sent from Holland to investigate. He found traces, but by and large was unsuccessful.

Intermittently finds of gold reported caused formation of several gold exploring and exploiting companies. The last had a smelting plant at Balashi, where the Anglo-Aruban Gold Mining Co. operated from 1910 to 1913, when World War 1 cut off the import of necessary chemicals for the work.

Bushiribana, on the north coast, is the site of a magnificent 19th century gold mill that has been nicknamed the "Pirate's Castle".

Legend says that someone filled in the gold pits after they were abandoned because he found a lump of gold weighing 32 pounds, and wanted to keep secret the location of the valuable vein. Legend adds that he couldn't locate it again himself.

Probably the most historic year in Aruba's history is 1928, when Lago Oil and Transport Co. came. The company, later a subsidiary of Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, was looking for a good sea port and a stable government. They wanted to build an oil refinery to process the oil that had to be taken from Lake Maracaibo oil fields, 200 miles away in shallow lake tankers.

The modest plant grew to be the world's biggest oil refinery, producing 440,000 barrels of refined oil products a day. It brought prosperity unknown in the Caribbean to Aruba. Today Aruba has one of the highest standards of living in the world.

A new industrial harbor has been completed to facilitate shipment of future industrial products from Aruba's new industrial park, situated on the island's leeward coast. The Aruba Chemical Industries and Antilles Chemical Company are the first industries to establish on this part of Aruba, and will produce ammonia, urea, nitric acid and complex fertilizers for export to South and Central America.

#### Establishment of new industries:

For the establishment of new industries on the island the government issued a tax exemption law, which grants a 10-11 years tax exemption to new industries and hotels. Under this law no duty is paid for the import of building materials, furniture, furnishings and machinery for the industries. This also applies for all replacements of said requisites during the first 10 years of operation.

#### Money:

The currency of Aruba is the Netherlands Antilles Guilder, or Florin, of which the symbol is Fl., or F. The current rate of exchange is Florin 1.85 to the U.S. Dollar or Travellers Check, and Florin 0.35 to the Bolivar. Many merchants make the rate of exchange even more favourable for American tourists by giving a flat 2-for-1 exchange when U.S. dollars are used for purchases.

There are 100 cents to a Guilder. There are silver coins of five, 10 and 25 cents, 1 Guilder and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Guilders, and copper coins of 1 and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents.

The five-cent pieces are popular as souvenirs because they are square.

Bills are in denominations of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , 5, 10, 25, 100, 250 and 500 Guilders.

The exchange for U.S. banker's drafts is Fl. 1.905 per dollar, less  $\frac{3}{16}$  of 1% distance costs.

#### Shopping:

Aruba is known to have practically free-port prices. There is no duty at all on some articles. On others, the duty is so small as to be negligible.

Thus, gifts and treasures from around the world may be purchased for far less than they would cost in the United States. Savings of 50 per cent or more are commonplace. Aruba also has no sales tax.

There are many fine shops in Oranjestad and San Nicolas. In addition, the Aruba Caribbean Hotel-Casino has a free port shopping arcade. Among the good "buys" a visitor can find on Aruba are:

Swiss watches, jewelry, German and Japanese cameras and optical goods, liquor and liqueurs, Royal Copenhagen porcelain, Delft Blue pottery, Dutch, Swedish and

Danish silver and pewter, French perfume, Hummel figurines, Madeira embroidery, British woolens, Indonesian specialties and Italian wood carvings.

#### Water Sports:

The blue Caribbean that surrounds Aruba is a wonderful natural playground that beckons visitor and resident alike.

Aruba's Eagle and Palm Beaches are considered the finest in the Caribbean. Their sands are as white and as fine as granulated sugar, and their beaches slope gently into the sea. There is hardly any surf because these beaches are on the leeward side of the island. Bathing anywhere along this seven mile stretch of coastline is excellent.

Aruba is becoming a center of deep sea game fishing. The best sport fish in local waters is the wahoo, followed closely by the blue marlin and the white marlin. The waters also abound in kingfish, dolphin, yellow fin tuna, black fin tuna, jack crevalle, amber jack, barracuda, ocean yellow tail, bonita, Spanish mackerel, and cero mackerel. Bottom fish -- such as snapper, grouper and porgies -- also are plentiful.

Aruba Water Sports, located on the beach by the Aruba Caribbean Hotel-Casino, has a twin-engine cruiser that is fully-equipped for deep sea fishing available for charter. Other charter boats also may be rented in Oranjestad.

Surf fishing also is very good, although it is not practiced much locally.

Skin diving has been popular on Aruba for many years, long before it was in the United States. The waters around the island are exceptionally clear. Underwater visibility of as much as 150 feet is not unusual. There are many coral reefs and several sunken ships for skin divers to explore.

Boats and equipment may be rented, and guides familiar with local waters are available to show visitors the best places for diving, underwater photography or spearfishing.

As popular as skin diving is waterskiing. Because the Caribbean on the leeward side of Aruba is always calm, it provides a fine course for waterskiiers. Instructors will show the beginner the elements of waterskiing and have him zooming across the turquoise waters in no time.

Several types of sailboats may be rented by the hour, half-day or day, and individuals or groups also may charter a large native-type sailing sloop.

"Watercycles", 11-foot catamarans that are pedalled like bicycles, also may be rented at "Aruba Water Sports".

For the more sedentary, there are glass bottom sightseeing boats that cruise over the island's reefs and sunken wrecks.

Other Sports:

The Aruba Caribbean Hotel-Casino has fine tennis courts, as do several local clubs (the Tivoli Club, Caribe Club and the Lago Club). The Lago Club has facilities for night play.

There is one golf course on the island, the Aruba Golf Club, near the island's American colony. The Aruba Tourist Bureau or local hotels will make arrangements for visitors to use the facilities.

Soccer, baseball, basketball and volleyball are popular spectator sports on Aruba, and games may be seen at Queen Wilhelmina Stadium in Oranjestad, the Lago Sport Park, in San Nicolas and at several clubs in the villages.

The Aruba Caribbean Hotel-Casino:

The Aruba Caribbean Hotel-Casino, built at a cost of \$5 million, rises high above the white sands of Aruba's Palm Beach on the leeward coast of the island. (The eight-story hotel is, in fact, the highest building in the Netherlands West Indies).

All 120 studio-guest rooms in the new luxury resort hotel offer a panoramic view of the sea. Each room has its own separate dressing room, tile bath, shower, walk-in closet and its own private terrace facing the Caribbean.

There are also 20 cabanas with private baths, showers and double dressing room.

The Aruba Caribbean was designed by architect Morris Lapidus, whose other creations include Miami Beach's Fontainebleau, Eden Roc and Americana hotels. It is a distinctive blend of modern decor combined with native Aruban stone, coral, tile, woven straw, bamboo and rattan.

The lobby is doorless. It has been left open to Aruba's perpetual trade wind. The rest of the hotel is entirely airconditioned, however.

One wall of the lobby is surfaced in Delft Blue tiles from Holland that were made especially for the Aruba Caribbean. The entrance foyer is faced with brain coral brought up from the floor of the Caribbean.

The Papiamento Dining Room seats 250 diners. The circular room has an exposed domed ceiling. Adjacent to the dining room is the Klompen Klub. A moving wall between the two rooms can be opened to accommodate approximately 500 persons at one time. The supper Club offers excellent food, floor shows with "name" acts and dancing on a raised stage. Ceramic mosaics at the entrance to the Papiamento Room and Klompen Klub depict the people (Portuguese, English, Dutch and Spanish) whose languages were combined to form Papiamento, the language of Aruba.

The Bali Bar, directly off the lobby, also provides entertainment.

The main floor gambling casino, designed in the Continental manner, features such games of chance as roulette, black jack, craps and slot machines.

In the lower lobby is a shopping arcade and the Divi-Divi Coffee Shop.

The hotel is set in 100,000 square feet of landscaped grounds which are surrounded by a fence of living cactus in the style of Aruba's "cunucu" (countryside). Besides the tropical gardens, the grounds are dotted with huge boulders brought from the "cunucu" and that nature has carved into strange shapes. Most popular for amateur photographers is a boulder shaped like a turtle's head.

All resort activities are on the premises, including swimming (either in the Olympicsize pool or in the Caribbean), tennis and shuffleboard. Boats for deep sea fishing, waterskiing, skin diving or sailing may be rented on the beach front. Glass bottom boats also make regular tours from the hotel to the coral canyons and sunken ships off shore.

#### Other Hotels:

Aruba boasts several other fine hotels and beach clubs. Included among them are:

Basi Ruti, on Palm Beach. A charming, informal beach club. There are bungalows as well as hotel rooms, all air conditioned. The Basi Ruti features Italian cuisine in addition to standard American dishes. There is a bar and entertainment, usually on weekends.

Scala, in downtown Oranjestad, overlooking Nassaustraat, the heart of Aruba's free port shopping center. Its 24 rooms are airconditioned. It has a dining room featuring Dutch and Indonesian dishes and a bar.

Capital, also in downtown Oranjestad. Its eighteen rooms are airconditioned and it has a dining-room and bar. The specialty is Chinese dishes.

Astoria, in San Nicolas. Its ten rooms are airconditioned. Its dining room has Chinese specialties. There is a bar.

#### What to wear:

For the most part, casualness and informality in dress is the rule on Aruba.

The temperature ranges in the 70's and 80's year-round, so light-weight summer clothing is as comfortable in January as it is in July. The nights are pleasantly mild, never chilly.

For shopping or sight-seeing, men should wear slacks and sport shirts, and women light-weight dresses. Anyone in shorts (or women in slacks) in a downtown district can expect to draw stares. Arubans aren't prudish by any means, but they feel such attire should be left for sports or lounging. Women shouldn't forget to pack a kerchief. While the constant trade wind that airconditions the island is refreshing, it can play hob with a coiffure. Both men and women should bring along a pair of substantial walking shoes that can take a scuffing, for half the fun of visiting Aruba is exploring the island's lovely hidden coves, Indian caves, hills and gold mine ruins.

Aruba is a sophisticated island, and "dress up" clothes are advisable at times. Dinner jackets for men are optional in the Aruba Caribbean Hotel-Casino, but they do make an evening in the night club or gaming casino seem smarter. The same goes for cocktail gowns for women.

One item can be left at home --a raincoat--. Showers are rare on Aruba, and they usually last only a few minutes.

A resumé of recommended clothing:

**FOR WOMEN** - Informal linens, preferably uncrushable; Palm Beach sportswear; casual wash-and-dry cottons and/or washable silks. For evenings, cocktail length dresses, woolen or cotton stole or light sweater. For sight-seeing, flat shoes, sun glasses and a scarf. Two bathing suits are suggested, as well as bathing caps, slippers and a beach coat.

**FOR MEN** - Light linen or tropical weight suits and sport jackets. Slacks with sport shirts are suitable except for business calls or after 6 p.m. At night, for formal occasions, summer weight dinner jackets. For swimming, two swim trunks, sun glasses, beach coat and slippers. Comfortable moccasin type flat shoes for sightseeing and casual occasions.

Additional information:

Entry requirements - Citizens of the United States do not have to have a passport but they must have some proof of citizenship -- a voter's card, a birth certificate, a naturalization certificate, etc. (A driver's licence is not proof of citizenship). All visitors must have a smallpox vaccination certificate not more than three years old.

Foreigners permanently residing in the U.S. must have a re-entry permit or non-quota immigration visa.

Canadian Citizens must have a valid passport and a smallpox vaccination certificate not more than three years old.

Transportation - Aruba is regularly served by K.L.M. (Royal Dutch Airlines) from New York and Miami, by Trans Caribbean Airways from New York via San Juan and Grace Line from New York.

Aruba is considered as a popular stop of many cruise-ships visiting the Caribbean. The following cruise-ship lines have called at Aruba:

Swedish American Line, Holland-America Line, Zim Lines, Furness Line, Inces Line, Canadian Pacific Steamship Co., Clipper Line, Alcoa, Norwegian American Line, Cunard Line and Caribbean Cruise Lines.

Taxis, Rental cars - Taxis with English-speaking drivers are available. Rates are according to taxi-meters, installed by the government. Cars also may be rented

by the day or by the week. Upon presentation of a valid driver's license from any state in the U.S., local police will issue a temporary driver's license good for one week.

Aruba has more than 80 miles of first class roads and more than 60 miles of second class gravel roads.

Communications - American Cable and Radio, Inc. has an office in Oranjestad. There also is government radio and radio telephone service with the U.S.

Public telephones are free.

Water - Aruba's water is perfectly safe to drink. It is distilled from seawater in a modern \$11 million distillation plant. This plant is capable of producing 2,700,000 gallons of fresh water daily, as well as 15,000 kilowatts of by-product electricity. It has been especially designed to allow for rapid additional capacity at a minimum cost, in accordance with future needs. It symbolizes the progressive spirit and the economic growth of our island.

By-product electricity is available from the waterplant at very attractive rates, for industries that use a lot of electrical power in their processing.

As a direct result of the purity of the water as well as of the inexpensive power obtained from this plant, it became possible to attract the investment of chemical industries to this island.

Time: Aruba's time is 30 minutes ahead of Eastern Standard Time.

Laundry, Dry Cleaning - Twenty-four hour service is available.

Medical Facilities - Modern medical and dental facilities are available.

Tipping - Some hotels and restaurants add a 10 per cent service charge to the bill. Otherwise, a 10 to 15 per cent tip is customary.

Restaurants:

It is remarkable to note the variety of good food that is available on the island.

The BALI-restaurant, a small houseboat rebuilt into a restaurant, that specializes in "rijsttafel" (tr. rice-table), has earned international recognition. Exotic Indonesian dishes, at least 20 different ones in total. This restaurant is situated opposite the office of the Aruba Tourist Bureau in Oranjestad.

The CAPITAL and ASTORIA hotels in Oranjestad and San Nicholas respectively serve exquisite Chinese dishes that can easily compete with the best Chinese restaurants.

The BASS RUTJ hotel has made a name for itself through its Italian cuisine. It is located at Palm Beach.

The DING-DING coffee-shop and the KLOMPEN KLUB in the Aruba Caribbean Hotel-Casino feature an American/International kitchen. The hotel is situated at Palm Beach.

The TROCADERO restaurant, within a few hundred feet of the quay, where fishing boats dock in Oranjestad, has a variety of seafood on its menu.

The SCALA hotel in the shopping street of Oranjestad enjoys a good reputation through its Dutch cuisine.

The newest tourist attraction is the "OLDE MOLEN", which was opened in March 1962. This authentic Dutch windmill was dismantled in Holland and reassembled on Palm Beach, within walking distance from the "Aruba Caribbean Hotel-Casino" and the "Basi Ruti Hotel". It has a Dutch/International cuisine.

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February 1964.

ARUBA TOURIST BUREAU





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